

March, April 2021
Issue 143

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Canberra Aboriginal Church

Also distributed to

Sunday 28th March - Mr. Brett Hiram - What is your name?

Brett chose Genesis 32: 22-27 as the Bible reading.

He suggested the service would be an opportunity for self-assessment. We should look at ourselves through God's eyes and what we would find is far from perfect.

In the parable of the sower found in Matthew 13 (and also in Mark and Luke), the soil on which the seed is scattered is our hearts. Hardened, shallow or weed infested soil does not produce a good, sustained harvest. We need to soften the soil and rid it of weeds so the seed will produce a good crop.

How can we do this in a Biblical manner?

Jacob had his faults. He bought his brother's birthright for a serving of stew and later tricked his father into giving him the blessing Isaac intended to give Esau.

On his way to Laban's (his mother's brother) place in order to both get away from Esau and find a wife as his father instructed, God spoke to Jacob in a dream saying "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go" [Genesis 28: 15].

Even though God had told him that He would be with him and watch over him, Jacob ran away from problems rather than face them directly.

After spending some years with Laban and also being tricked by him, Jacob headed back to his home, sending gifts before him so any anger still felt by Esau might be lessened.

Still fearful of Esau, Jacob sent his family and possessions across a stream and was alone. There he encountered a man and wrestled all night with him. In doing so he confronted his failures, his weaknesses, his sins, all the things that were hurting him . . . and faced God.

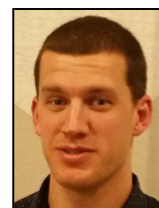
It was only after he came to grips with God and ceased his struggling, realising that he could not go on without Him, that he received God's blessing.

"What is your name?" Jacob answered "Jacob" (which means 'grabber' or 'deceiver')

"Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.'" [Genesis 32: 29].

By confessing our sins, it breaks the ground and clears the weeds.

When we return to God in faith, God is there waiting for us.



ID



Ashley has rung to ask after us all and to wish us a Happy Easter!

Dinah also rang asking after everyone a couple of weeks ago.



Scripture Union ran two Beach Missions over this last summer

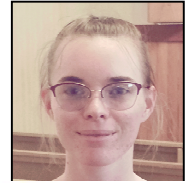
On one of these beach missions, our team met Kelly, who had been coming along to all of the young adult programs. Her family had been supposed to pack up and return home half way through Beach Mission week. However, when Kelly's parents saw how much of a positive impact beach mission was on their daughter, they extended their holiday until the end of the program.

Her parents told us that, after coming along to Beach Mission, Kelly "was happier than she'd been in a long time."

This is why we do ministry, because we know that Jesus is completely life changing.

from a letter from Scripture Union about the Regeneration Dinner and their ministry.

Anne Warren writes from Armidale that she was officially commissioned at St. Mark's UNEChurch (University of New England Church). as a MTS (Ministry Training Strategy) trainee.



Her responsibilities include

- supporting the students who run the christian student group on campus at UNE through reading the Bible with individual young women, assisting with Bible study groups and helping the student committee with logistics of events they run
- leading youth ministries at St Mark's, including youth group (called SMYG) and a year 10-12 Bible study group
- coordinating training activities at church to enable people to use their gifts to serve Christ well, and with joy, at church and in the community

From The Purdey Pages, no. 28, March 2021

Tratchy ny Taona! Happy New Year!

In Madagascar this is what you say when you see someone you know for the first time in the new year, even if it's a few months into the new year!

In mid January we celebrated one year in Madagascar.



Ian is enjoying the challenge of flying in a very different environment to Arnhem Land, the change in scenery, terrain, weather patterns and relief from constant heat. The most challenging thing is communication

Adele is enjoying learning and using French and Malagasy each day, ... Current challenges for her are navigating unknown roads, not always being able to communicate easily and frequent power outs (we are currently writing by candlelight while the laptop batteries hold out!)

The boys like finding chameleons in our garden, getting knick knacks at the markets, eating enormous quantities of mangoes, bananas and pineapples and playing with friends. ... [They] are absorbing so much French by going to school ... and we sometimes hear them chattering away in French at home!

Answered Prayer:

On a Wednesday morning in March we got a call that Laura (name changed), a missionary in Ambovombe in the far south of Madagascar, was sick. She was suffering from typhoid, lapsing into unconsciousness and delirious at times when awake. ...

The MAF team had much to organise to make the flight happen. Two doctors from a hospital in Tana were found to go on the flight and care for the patient. Permissions for the flight and for landing had to be obtained and also a doctor's certification that this wasn't a covid case, meaning the difference between no problems with authorities on arrival to days spent in quarantine. ...



The morning weather was good enough for a departure between some holes in the cloud around Tana and as I pointed the nose of the plane south I said a quick prayer that the weather would hold for our return.

Madagascar is a big island! Even though Tana is more or less central it is still nearly three hours to the far south. Thick cloud made the arrival 'interesting' ... Ambovombe eventually loomed out of the smoky haze ... there were no zebu on the runway and ... the grass was short enough for a landing. After touchdown that same grass came alive with locusts smashing against the windshield and leaping out of the way in every direction.

I shut down to find that the patient had taken a turn for the worse since that morning. As I waited she was brought to the airstrip, unconscious on a mattress in the back of an ancient Peugeot ute, ... We loaded the patient into the plane and prayed over her, with the community gathering nearby. Fifteen minutes later we were airborne through a gap in the clouds.

The ... wet season thunderstorm clouds on the return flight necessitated a 40 nautical mile diversion off track but finally my morning's prayer for the return journey was answered when a break appeared towards Tana. ... [From] the Ivato airport tower I learned there were thunderstorms to the north, north east, east and south, but the field itself was in the clear ... we finally touched down but my short lived relief was met with one final obstacle. The ambulance that my colleague had requested to meet the plane ... was being denied permission to drive airside ... a second ambulance turned up but was held at the gate on ... [a] technicality ... our quick thinking MAF ground ops manager ... was at last able to escort the ambulance through.

Exhausted but thankful to have been able to answer the call, we prayed as a family that night for the patient and the next day our ops manager received a text that Laura was now conscious, sleeping a lot and still weak, but stable.

We praise God for all the answered prayer that day - to Him be the glory!



Rev. Dr. Murray Earl was in town for the centenary celebrations of the **Royal Australian Air Force**, having received an invitation as a former RAAF chaplain.

During his short Canberra visit, he found time to call in on Ruth and ask after everyone in our Fellowship.

He is assisting a small country church in the South-East of South Australia, preaching there every fortnight.

A former ex-Air Force pilot from our Fellowship also participated in the centenary celebrations / remembrances. Alec mentioned he had attended one of the events organised by the RAAF.



Of course Alec also had celebrations of his own - 101 on Good Friday.

It was a day enjoyed with family and friends with others phoning or dropping in to wish him well for his birthday.

Scripture Union's 2021 Regeneration Dinner

The CCF table

Left to Right:

- Wendy,
- Nikeyla,
- Ruth,
- Sharon,
- Kelly,
- Joanne,
- Joyce,
- Jessica,
- Macka,
- Caleb,
- Daniel.



Canberra Aboriginal Church

Prayer Point Please pray for the Aboriginal Church just as they are praying for us.

Praise Point Christine Sloane's young grandson is now approaching 4 months old and Rev. Peter Nelson is travelling to Canberra on Saturday, 10 April for Koen's christening.



Claudia

Claudia Moulang passed from this life in February aged 98.

She and her husband Keith were members of the Campbell Gospel Chapel and made us very welcome when we met there. They attended many of our services as well as their own and formed close friendships with us.

Claudia was born in the Rockdale area of Sydney and grew up in a Christian home along with a younger brother.

Around 1942 she joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) where she stayed until the end of World War 2. For some of that time she was posted to Brisbane.

Claudia's stint in the WAAAF was significant to her and she marched in the ANZAC day parade each year until very recently.

Another member of the Air Force was a young man named Keith. Keith and Claudia met, became friends and eventually married.

Post-war, Keith and Claudia were posted to England with the Customs Department. On their return to Australia in 1965 they brought three children to Canberra, living at first in Hackett for some years before moving to Campbell.

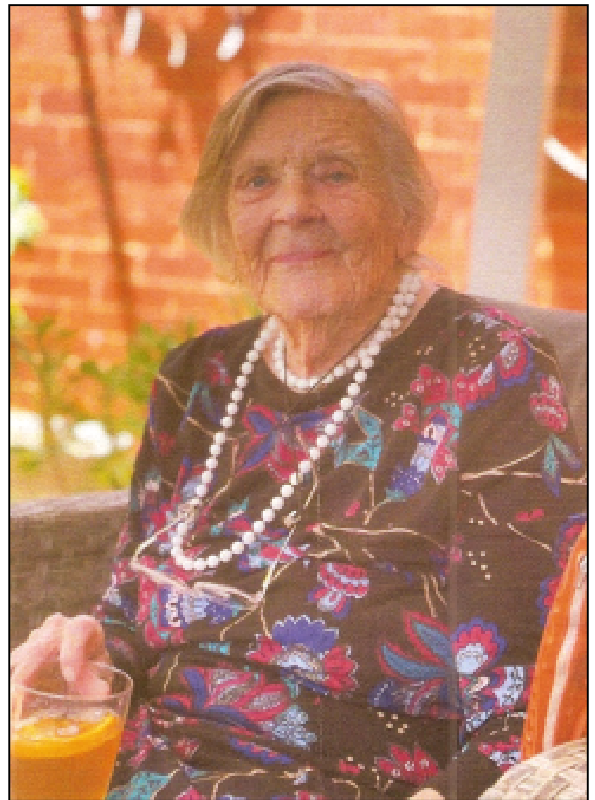
For her final years Claudia returned to Hackett, living with her daughter before taking up residence at Sir Leslie Morshead Manor (an RSL aged care facility) in Lyneham.

From 1965 on, Keith and Claudia faithfully attended the Campbell Gospel Chapel and actively participated in the various activities of that congregation.

Having interests in reading, travel and people, Claudia was a very friendly, welcoming and chatty person. When we began meeting at the chapel we immediately experienced her welcoming spirit and she paid particular attention to the children who came along, chatting to them and sometimes giving them small gifts.

A lady of strong faith, Claudia used the qualities God blessed her with in His service through her participation in the Gospel Chapel witness and the wider Church.

Thanks to Pam Reid for memories of Claudia



Magpie

Back on 7 March, we had a slightly unusual guest at our service. As the service commenced, two magpies wandered in the open doors. One decided it preferred the open air and wandered back out, however the other decided to have a closer look at what was going on.

A bang as the bird collided with a glass panel was the first I was aware of its presence. It appeared to be a younger bird.

At first it flew about a bit and hit a glass panel a few times. Attempts to entice it down and lure it to freedom were unsuccessful as it kept flying up towards the light.

Eventually it perched on the structure supporting the lights and remained there for the rest of the service, remaining quiet but attentive during the hymns, prayer and Roy's sermon.

After the service we closed up the church with our guest still inside and Janne notified.

Janne rang me a short time later to inform me Maggie had left the building. It must have been easier to entice out once the brightness of the day ceased to attract the bird up to the light from the central steeple.



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Services over recent weeks have included the following:



Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan



Mr. Aubrey Newman



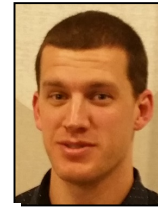
Mr. Roy Dallos



Mr. Jude Simion



Rev. Abraham Tang



Mr. Brett Hillam

Sunday 21st February – Rev. Dr. Campbell Egan - God speaks through dreams and visions

Sunday 28th February – Mr. Aubrey Newman - i Afrika / Jesus the Way; Abiding in the Vine; Faith; Works

Sunday 7th March – Mr. Roy Dallos - God is always good

Sunday 14th March – Mr. Jude Simion (Barnabas Fund) - Sound Mind

Sunday 21st March – Rev. Abraham Tang - God is Love

Sunday 28th March – Mr. Brett Hillam - What is your name?

Coming Services

We meet at **Holy Trinity Finnish Lutheran Church, Cnr. Gould and Watson Streets, Turner**



Rev. Paul Tabulutu



Mrs. Joyce Hall



Mr. Owen Chadwick



Mr. Mark Warren



Pastor Steve Prior



Mr. David Turner



Mr. Roy Dallos



Rev. Phil Anderson



Mr. Phillip Ng



Mr. Etienne Pieterse

Sunday 4th April at 5pm – Rev. Paul Tabulutu (EASTER)

Sunday 11th April at 5pm – Mrs. Joyce Hall

Sunday 18th April at 5pm – Mr. Owen Chadwick

Sunday 25th April at 5pm – Mr. Mark Warren

Sunday 2nd May at 5pm – Pastor Steve Prior

Sunday 9th May at 5pm – Mr. David Turner (Mission Without Borders)

Sunday 16th May at 5pm – Mr. Roy Dallos

Sunday 23rd May at 5pm – Rev. Phil Anderson

Sunday 30th May at 5pm – Mr. Phil Ng

Sunday 6th June at 5pm –

Sunday 13th June at 5pm –

Sunday 20th June at 5pm – Mr. Etienne Pieterse (Leprosy Mission)

Chaplains

Rev. Phil Anderson - Australian Federal Police chaplaincy

Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy

Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy

Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches

Please remember Phil, Owen, Bob, Paul and their work in your prayers.



So many people commented on and enjoyed The Education Page last issue that here are some additional laws.

Murphy's Laws

1. In any field of endeavor, anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.
2. Left to themselves, things always go from bad to worse.
3. If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will go wrong, is the one that will cause the most damage.
4. Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
5. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

“Murphy's Other 15 Laws”

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
11. The things that come to those who wait, may be the things left by those who got there first.
12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
13. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
14. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
15. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

The Church is the Body of Christ and its mission is to give God the praise and worship due Him and to serve Him. Politics is a construct of humanity and while important in guiding and regulating behaviour, it is not the primary business of the Church.

Where political action conflicts with God's rule it does become a matter for the Church to address.

Under recently passed Victorian law, prayer to GOD requested by a Victorian person concerning an unwanted same sex attraction is PROHIBITED.

PRAYING TO GOD ABOUT A MATTER IS NOT SOMETHING HUMAN LAW SHOULD PROHIBIT !

The A.C.T. has also passed a very similar law. "Parents, teachers, pastors, youth workers, counsellors, doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists, who counsel a child to wait and see before they make changes re their sexuality or gender, risk jail and fines." "Someone found guilty can be fined up to \$24,000, or imprisoned up to 12 months, or both; and required to pay unlimited compensation to the 'protected person'."

Family Voice, Australian Christian Lobby and Arthur from the Aboriginal Church can supply material giving more information on this important issue.

Contacts

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